

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3764

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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FOR ICS AND ILA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, BR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: BRASILIA 3798 STATE 116750

1. NATIONAL COMMISSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (CNEN) PRESIDENT HERVASIO DE CARVALHO TOLD SCIENCE OFFICER REYNOLDS THAT HE WANTS TO DELAY SETTING NEW DATE FOR CONFERENCE UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM THE VIENNA IAEA MEETINGS IN TWO WEEKS.

2. CARVALHO STATED THAT THE WEST GERMAN MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WILL VISIT BRAZIL IN MID-JULY TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY AND CNEN; THEREFORE, IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO POSTPONE THE AEC VISIT, UNTIL AUGUST OR EVEN LATER.

3. CARVALHO ASSURED REYNOLDS THAT THE MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY, CNEN, AND OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE AEC GROUP. HE MADE POINT THAT A GROUP OF LOWER RANK THAN THAT ORIGINALLY PROMISED FOR THE CONFERENCE COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE THE SAME IMPACT WITH BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERTS AND ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI. MINISTER

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UEKI IS PRAGMATIC REALIST AND DESIRES FRANK DISCUSSIONS

ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITH PRINCIPALS FROM WHOM HE CAN GET DIRECT ANSWERS AT THE MOMENT. RECENT VISIT OF INDIAN VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH GERMAN MINISTER ARE EXAMPLES OF LEVEL OF CONTACTS CURRENTLY BEING MADE BY UEKI AND HIS TOP PEOPLE.

4. CARVALHO DOES NOT FORESEE PROBLEM IN EXPLAINING TO MINISTER UEKI REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULED CONFERENCE.

5. EMBASSY REGRETS HAVING LOST THIS OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO INFLUENCE GOB NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WHEN WE HAD A CLEAR ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF TIMING AND BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY.

6. MISSION OFFICERS WILL ATTEMPT TO RESCHEDULE THE AEC VISIT UPON CARVALHO'S RETURN FROM VIENNA. FOR CONFERENCE TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, SAME TEAM ORIGINALLY PROPOSED OR EQUIVALENT IN RANK AND EXPERTISE MUST BE SENT. NEW DATES, WHEN AGREED UPON, MUST BE HONORED. TO HAVE THE SCHEDULE COLLAPSE AGAIN WOULD PROVE DAMAGING TO U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS BRAZIL. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE EXCELLENT BACKSTOPPING BY STATE AND USIS UNITS IF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT IS TO SUCCEED. CRIMMINS

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